IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/644,082

Confirmation No. : 4712

Applicant : T. SHINODA : August 20, 2003

Examiner : TBD Customer No. : 20457

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 14, 2004

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, that the references be made of record therein, and that the references appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Also enclosed is a European Search Report.

I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. No Certification or fee is required.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

Docket No. 3022-0018 File No. 1227.43061X00 Client No. ARF-029US

this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135

(Case No. 1227.43061X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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